

HOW TO BECOME AN ASTHMA FRIENDLY CHILD CARE

Step 1: Getting Started

Becoming asthma friendly child care site is not a one person job! It is important to work as a team. For family child care sites, it is important that you become aware of the local resources available to assist you. Maybe a parent or a local health care provider could provide information and support.

Designate a team of staff in the child care to work on this process. Family child care homes should determine what assistance you need and seek resources.

Designate an asthma friendly child care team leader to complete these forms.

Step 2: Complete a Self Assessment Check List

The self assessment checklist will help you see what you are already doing and find out what you need to do to be asthma friendly. Regardless of where you are, we encourage you and your team to use this checklist to gauge your progress and to identify areas that could use more attention.

Read each asthma friendly child care criteria and the activities for each. Determine if you are currently doing any of the activities

If you are doing an activity to the fullest, check “YES” ; If you are doing the activity and still have more to do to be doing it fully, check “IN PROGRESS”; If you are not doing the activity at all, check “NOT YET”

Step 3: Review Your Results

Look at what you are doing and what you still need to do to be an asthma friendly child care.

Identify areas in need of more attention. Determine which areas should be a priority based on the children in your care, the effort to do the activities, the cost and the support needed to do them.

Develop an action plan to improve asthma programs and policies related to the activities you see as a priority. Use the resources at the end of the checklist to help you with this.

Step 4: Begin New Activities

Begin new activities that you have determined are a high priority. Keep a record and documentation of your activities.

Step 5: Apply to be designated an Asthma Friendly Child Care

Complete the Asthma Friendly Child Care Award Designation Application by checking the activities you have completed for each criterion. There are two modules that comprise of the complete Application – Environment and Management – both MUST be completed.

All mandated activities must be conducted according to licensing regulations. In addition to the mandated activities, **two activities** must be completed for **each** criterion or sub-criteria. One (1) may be a write-in.

When you are finished completing the application mail it to:

**Rachel Hess-Mutinda:
Environmental Health Bureau - DHMH
201 W. Preston St. RM 309
Baltimore, MD 21201**

Step 6: Celebrate!

Once your application is received and reviewed you will be notified in writing of your award designation. You will receive a window decal stating you are an Asthma Friendly Child Care. Your designation is good for 2 years.